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Benjamin Rush, to be erected at Washington, but the amount was much increased by subscriptions at the meeting. The Association will next meet at Denver, under the Presidency of Surgeon-General George M. Sternberg.

A CONFERENCE of the members of the Institution of Civil Engineers was held in London this year under conditions convenient to many who are precluded from attending the weekly meetings during the session, and serviceable to all by the discussion of a wider range of subjects than can be dealt with on ordinary occasions. The business of the conference differed from the ordinary proceedings of the institution, papers descriptive of works executed giving place to brief statements concerning important debatable matters in engineering science and practice, introduced with a view to eliciting discussion on the questions raised. The conference was held on May 25, 26 and 27, the morning of each day (from 10:30 to 1:30) being devoted to the consideration of the statements referred to, and visits of inspection to engineering works being made in the afternoon. The work of the conference was carried out under the direction of the Council, with the assistance of seven sectional committees. The sections were: Railways, with Sir Benjamin Baker as chairman; harbors, docks and canals, Mr. Harrison Hayter, chairman; machinery and transmission of power, Sir Frederick Bramwell, chairman; mining and metallurgy, Mr. T. Forster Brown, chairman; shipbuilding, Sir William H. White, chairman; waterworks, sewerage and gasworks, Mr. Mansergh, chairman, and applications of electricity, Mr. W. H. Preece, chairman.

A *Revue Philanthropique* will hereafter be published in Paris by Masson et Cie, edited by M. Paul Strauss. The *Revue* will be published monthly, each number containing 160 large pages. The first number contains articles of considerable scientific interest.

THERE has been established in Italy a 'Società Positivista,' whose object it is to demonstrate the importance of science for modern life. The society has established a bi-monthly journal entitled *Il Pensiero Moderno*, published by the Society at Via Collegio Romano, 26, and edited

by Professor G. Sergi. Professor Sergi contributes an introduction and an article to the first number. Professor Sergi is also one of the editors of a new *Revista Italiana di Sociologia*, which takes the place of the *Revista di Sociologia*, formerly edited by Professors Sergi and Tangorra.

THE first number of a monthly *American X-ray Journal* has been issued from St. Louis, being edited and published by Dr. Heber Roberts. It contains a portrait of Dr. Röntgen and a number of photographs especially intended for the medical profession.

THE report of the Medical Superintendent to the London Metropolitan Asylums Board on the use of anti-toxin and the treatment of diphtheria during the year 1896 confirms the favorable results reached the previous year. The percentage of mortality being reduced from 29.6 in 1894 to 20.8 in 1896.

IT has been announced in the Legislative Assembly of Cape Colony that the shooting of cattle had been stopped as being a useless attempt to maintain a clean belt. It was added that it was impossible to prevent the rinderpest from reaching Cape Colony.

THE International Fisheries Exhibition at Bergen, to which we have already referred, will be opened on May 16, 1898. It will include the following groups: 1. Fish products. 2. Fishing apparatus. 3. Vessels employed in the catch and their equipment. 4. Preservatives. 5. Lodging ships, lodging houses and station huts. 6. Tank and other transport vessels. 7. Models and drawings of warehouses, salting establishments, smoke houses, ice houses and other cold rooms. 8. Machines, tools and apparatus. 9. Fish culture. 10. Pleasure fisheries. 11. Facts about the fisheries and their development. 12. The life-saving service.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, Montreal, receives \$100,000 by the will of the late J. H. R. Molson, who was senior governor of the University.

THE REV. FATHER MACKAY has given \$5,000 to the Catholic University of America for the foundation of a scholarship.

THE general board of studies of Cambridge University recommend that a University lectureship in physiological and experimental psychology, connected with the special board for biology and geology, be established for the term of five years from October next, and that the stipend of the lecturer be £50 a year.

PROFESSOR H. K. WOLFE has resigned the chair of psychology in the University of Nebraska. Dr. W. B. Pillsbury, now instructor in psychology in Cornell University, has accepted a similar position in the University of Michigan. Mr. F. C. S. Schiller, instructor in logic in Cornell University, will return to Oxford, having been elected fellow and tutor in Corpus Christi College. It is understood that Dr. C. E. Seashore, now assistant in Yale University, will be appointed assistant in psychology in the University of Iowa, and Dr. J. H. Leuba, lately fellow at Clark University, to a position in psychology in Clark University. Mr. S. I. Franz has been elected assistant in psychology in Columbia University.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM S. FRANKLIN, of Iowa University, has been elected to the chair of physics and electrical engineering at Lehigh University, filling the place vacant by the resignation of Professor Harding. Dr. John Marshall has been appointed to the chair of chemistry in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, vacant through the death of Professor Theodore G. Wormley.

MISS MARY E. PENNINGTON was appointed Thomas A. Scott fellow in hygiene in the University of Pennsylvania. Miss Bertha Stoneman, now at Cornell University, has been appointed to the chair of botany in the Huguenot College for Women in Cape Colony.

REV. R. E. JONES, of All Angels' Church, New York city, has been nominated for the Presidency of Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y.

PROFESSOR J. L. PREVOST has been elected professor of physiology in the University of Geneva. Dr. P. Francotte has been appointed professor of embryology and Dr. P. Stroobant professor of astronomy in the University of Brussels. Dr. J. J. Zumstein has been promoted to a professorship of anatomy in the University of Marburg.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE POTTER'S WHEEL IN ANCIENT AMERICA.

THE paragraph referring to American Ceramics, by Dr. D. G. Brinton, in *SCIENCE*, for May 21, 1897, page 797, containing the categorical statement that 'the device of the potter's wheel was (anciently) unknown in either North or South America,' should be noted as inadequate. Under the present knowledge of the subject, while referring, as a noteworthy substitute for the wheel, to a clay dish twisted by the Chillian Indians (Araucanians), so as to mould the clay ball resting in it (described in *Globus*, February 20, 1897), it would have been well to mention a similar device from the Southwest or Mexico, which, according to Professor Putnam, had been in the possession of the Peabody Museum at Cambridge, Mass., for some time previously.

More uninformative is it to ignore the *Kabal*, of Yucatan, a disc of wood caused to turn on a slippery board by the bare feet of the (present) Maya potter, while the clay sticking to the disc and revolving with it is thus made to mould itself symmetrically against the stationary fingers of the worker. This very noteworthy device, a primitive potter's wheel in the full sense, was observed and fully explained by the Corwith Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania to Yucatan in 1895. I illustrated it in 'Hill Caves of Yucatan' (Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1896, page 163), having previously described it to archaeologists, in the *American Naturalist*, for May, 1895. A correspondence with Dr. Brinton upon the significance of the Maya word *Kabal* resulted in his failure to find the word in the Spanish dictionary of the Maya language, published at the monastery of Motul in 1576, upon which he argued, inconsequently I thought, that the device had been brought to Yucatan by Spaniards. On the other hand, the late Bishop of Yucatan and, I think, Captain Theobert Maler believed it to be indigenous, and I have as yet learned of no discovery of the *Kabal* device in Spain or among the Moors in Africa. Under these circumstances, whether final investigation shall prove the *Kabal* to have been of European or American origin, the general references above noted to the potter's craft in